

From: jdfrost
To: Attorney General John Ashcroft
Date: 1/22/02 8:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

838 N 161st Place
Shoreline, WA 98133

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice has been a long time coming. I feel that the lawsuit was unjustified in the first place. Microsoft has done wonderful things for our nation. It has created jobs, made technological breakthroughs, and contributed to our education systems. The Windows operating system for all practical purposes is the standard for the industry without which we would not have most of our application software if there were no "standard" in place. In part, the state of our depressed economy was brought about by this suit that has had a negative impact upon the PC industry.

Yet, the government wants to bring it down. It seems that if one succeeds then that entity must automatically be evil. The terms of the settlement reflect the intense lobbying efforts of Microsoft's competitors. For one, all the concessions are geared towards helping the competitors gain an edge that they would not have achieved on their own. Microsoft is giving them technological information such as interfaces and protocols. Microsoft is also agreeing not to retaliate against computer makers and software developers who promote non-Microsoft products.

Although flawed, the settlement should be realized because the alternative of further litigation would be too much for our country to bear. We need Microsoft to be creating new products for the public's best interests. Why do we so mistrust the judgment of the public who has voted with their pocket book by purchasing Microsoft products?

Sincerely,

Joan Frost

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